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NON SIBI SED TOTO GENITOS SE CREDERE MUNDO.

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THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL WASHINGTON, RESPECTING THE CONFINEMENT OF Capt. ASGILL, PLACED IN ITS TRUE POINT OF LIGHT.

Meſſ'rs. Meigs and Dana,

WHEN I was in England, laſt winter, I heard ſuggeſtions that the treatment Capt. Aſgill experienced, during his confinement, was unneceſſarily rigorous, and as ſuch reflected diſcredit on the Americans. Having myſelf belonged to the family of the commander in chief, at that period, and having been acquainted with the minuteſt circumſtance relative to that unpleaſant affair; I had no heſitation in utterly denying that there was a particle of veracity in thoſe illiberal ſuggeſtions. On my return to Mount Vernon, this ſummer, I mentioned the ſubject to Gen. WASHINGTON. *He ſhewed me a communication from London, addreſſed to Col. Tilghman, which, arriving juſt after the death of that moſt amiable character, had been forwarded by his father to the General——by the latter I was alſo indulged with a ſight of his anſwer. I deſired to be permited to take copies of theſe papers, together with tranſcripts from all the original letters and orders reſpecting Capt. Aſgill. Of theſe I am now poſſeſſed.*

Anxious that the circulation of truth ſhould be co-extenſive with the falſhoods which have been aſſiduouſly propagated; and deſirous that the facts may be placed in a true point of view before the eyes of the preſent age and even of poſterity; I have determined, without conſulting any one, to charge myſelf with their publication. It is for this purpoſe, I requeſt you to inſert, in your judiciouſly conducted paper, the enclоſed documents, *for the authenticity of which I hold myſelf reſponſible to the public.*

I am, Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient and
Moſt humble ſervant,
D. HUMPHREYS.

New-Haven. Nov. 6. 1786.

No. I.

Poſtſcript to a letter from *James Tilghman, Eſq.* to his Excellency, *General WASHINGTON*, dated *Baltimore, May* 26, 1786.

"P. S. A letter is juſt come to hand from an American in London, who was the friend of my ſon, in which your name is mentioned, and I take the liberty of incloſing to you a copy of the paragraph. If you think it worth your while to ſay any thing upon the ſubject, I will tranſmit it to the gentleman, who writes the letter with ſome degree of anxiety. I know what pleaſure my poor ſon would have taken in letting the matter in its proper light."

"JAMES TILGHMAN."

No. II.

Copy of the Paragraph.

I have had it in contemplation to write to you for ſome time paſt on a ſubject in which I find myſelf more and more intereſted: I have endeavoured to ſhake it off from my mind, becauſe I am perſuaded that General WASHINGTON is too great in himſelf to be concerned at any calumny, and his character too fair and pure to need any defence of mine. I have the honour to be introduced to a party of ſages, who meet regularly at a coffee-houſe, where they diſcuſs politics, or ſubjects to communicate uſeful knowledge. This ſet of men often mention our great and good General, and commonly in a *proper* manner; but ſome give credit to a charge exhibited againſt him by young *Aſgill*, of illiberal treatment and cruelty towards himſelf. He alledges that a gibbet was erected before his priſon-window, and often pointed to, in an inſulting manner, as good, and proper for him to atone for *Haddy's* death; and many other inſults, all of which he believes were countenanced by General WASHINGTON, who was well inclined to execute the ſentence on him, but was reſtrained by the French General ROCHAMBEAU. I have contended that it was entirely owing to the humane procraſtination of our General, that Captain *Aſgill* did not ſuffer the fate allotted him, and that it was moſt happy to General WASHINGTON's good diſpoſition that the French Court interpoſed ſo as to enable him to ſave *Aſgill*, and at the ſame time keep our army in temper. This affair is ſtated by young *Aſgill*, and canvaſſed at the Britiſh Court as before related. Now Sir, not for General WASHINGTON's ſake, who, as I obſerved before, is above it, but for mine who take pride in him, as I believe every honeſt American muſt, I requeſt the favour that you would inform me fully on the ſubject, that I may be enabled to parry the only bad thruſt made at our hero in my preſence."

No. III.

Extract of a letter from his Excellency *General Waſhington*, to *James Tilghman, Eſq.* in anſwer to the foregoing, dated *Mount-Vernon, June 5th*, 1786.

"As your ſon's correſpondence with the committee of New-York is not connected with any tranſactions of mine, ſo conſequently, it is not neceſſary that the papers to which you allude, ſhould compoſe part of my public documents; but if they ſtand ſingle, as they exhibit a trait of his public character, and like all the reſt of his tranſactions, will, I am perſuaded, do honor to his underſtanding and probity, it may be deſirable in this point of view, to keep them alive by mixing them with mine, which undoubtedly will claim the attention

of the hiſtorian; who, if I am not miſtaken, will, upon an inſpection of them diſcover the illiberal ground in which the charge, mentioned in the extract of the letter you did me the honor to inclоſe me, is founded. That a calumny of this kind had been reported, I knew:——I had laid my account for the calumnies of anonymous ſcribblers, but I never had conceived before, that ſuch an one as is related, could have originated with, or met the countenance of Captain *Aſgill*; whoſe ſituation often filled me with the keeneſt anguiſh.——I felt for him on many accounts, and not the leaſt, when viewing him as a man of honor and ſentiment, I conſidered how unfortunate it was for him, that a wretch, who poſſeſſed neither, ſhould be the means of cauſing in him a ſingle pang, or diſagreeable ſenſation. My favourable opinion of him however is forfeited, if, being acquainted with theſe reports, he did not immediately contradict them. That I could not have given countenance to the inſults, which *he ſays*, were offered to his perſon, eſpecially the *grovelling* one of erecting a gibbet before his priſon-window, will, I expect, readily be believed, when I explicitly declare that I never heard of a ſingle attempt to offer an inſult, and that I had every reaſon to be convinced that he was treated by the officers around him, with all the tenderneſs and every civility in their power. I would fain aſk Captain *Aſgill* how he could reconcile ſuch belief (if his mind had been ſeriouſly impreſſed with it) to the continual indulgences and procraſtinations he experienced? he will not, I preſume, deny that he was admitted to his parole within 10 or 12 miles of the Britiſh lines;——if not to a formal parole, to a confidence yet more unlimited, by being permitted, for the benefit of his health, and the recreation of his mind, to ride, not only about the cantonment, but into the ſurrounding country; for ſeveral miles, with his friend and companion Major Gordon, conſtantly attending him.—Would not theſe indulgences have pointed a military character to the fountain from which they flowed? did he conceive that diſcipline was ſo lax in the American army, as that *any* officer *in it* would have granted thoſe liberties to a perſon confined by the expreſs order of the Commander in Chief, unleſs authorized to do ſo, by the ſame authority? and to aſcribe them to the interference of Count Rochambeau, is as void of foundation as his other conjectures, for I do not recollect that a ſentence ever paſſed between that General and myſelf, directly, or indirectly, upon the ſubject.

I was not without ſuſpicions after the final liberation and return of Capt. *Aſgill* to New-York, that his mind had been improperly impreſſed:——or that he was deficient in politeneſs. The treatment he had met with, in my conception, merited an acknowledgement. None however was offered, and I never ſought the cauſe.

This conciſe account of the treatment of Capt. *Aſgill* is given from a haſty recollection of the circumſtances—If I had time, and it was eſſential, by unpacking my papers and recurring to authentic files I might have been more pointed and full. It is in my power, at any time, to convince the *unbiaſſed mind* that my conduct through the whole of this tranſaction was neither influenced by paſſion, guided by inhumanity, or under the control of any interference whatſoever. I eſſayed every thing to ſave the innocent, bring the guilty to puniſhment, and ſtop the farther perpetration of ſimilar crimes: with what ſucceſs the impartial world muſt, and certainly will, decide.——

With very great eſteem and regard,
I have the honor to be, dear Sir,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
G. WASHINGTON.

No. IV.

Copies of original letters and orders to American officers and others, reſpecting Capt. Aſgill: extracted from General Waſhington's papers after the preceding letters were written.

To Brigadier Gen. HAZEN, Lancaſter.

Head-Quarters, 3d May, 1782.

Sir,

The enemy perſiſting in that barbarous line of conduct they have purſued during the courſe of this war, have lately moſt inhumanly executed Capt. *John Huddy*, of the Jerſey State troops, taken priſoner by them at a poſt on Tom's River, and in conſequence I have written to the Britiſh Commander in chief, that unleſs the perpetrators of that horrid deed were delivered up, I ſhould be under the diſagreeable neceſſity of retaliating, as the only means left to put a ſtop to ſuch inhuman proceedings.

You will therefore immediately on receipt of this, deſignate, by lot for the above purpoſe, a Britiſh Captain who is an unconditional priſoner, if ſuch an one is in your poſſeſſion, if not, a Lieutenant under the ſame circumſtances from among the priſoners at any of the poſts either in Penſylvania or Maryland. So ſoon as you have fixed on the perſon, you will ſend him under a ſafe guard to Philadelphia, where the miniſter of war will order a proper guard to receive and conduct him to the place of his deſtination.

For your information reſpecting the officers who are priſoners in our poſſeſſion, I have ordered the Commiſſary of Priſoners to furniſh you with a liſt of them. It will be forwarded with this. *I need not mention to you that every poſſible tenderneſs, that is conſiſtent with the ſecurity of him, ſhould be ſhewn to the perſon who is unfortunate let it may be to ſuffer.*

I am, &c.
G. WASHINGTON.

No. V.

To Col. ELIAS DAYTON, 2d. New-Jerſey, Chatham.

Head-Quarters, 4th June, 1782.

Sir,

I am informed by the Secretary at War, that Capt. Aſgill of the Britiſh Guards, an unfortunate officer, who is deſtined to be the unhappy victim to atone for the death of Captain Huddy, was arrived in Philadelphia, and would ſet off very ſoon for the Jerſey line, the place aſſigned for his execution. He will probably arrive as ſoon as this will reach you: and will be attended by Captain Ludlow, his friend, whom he wiſhes to be permitted to go into New-York, with an addreſs to Sir Guy Carlton in his behalf.

You will therefore give permiſſion to Captain Ludlow to go by the way of Dobb's Ferry into New York, with ſuch repreſentation as Captain Aſgill ſhall pleaſe to make to Sir Guy Carleton.

At the ſame time I would wiſh you to intimate to the gentlemen, that though I am deeply affected with the unhappy fate to which Captain Aſgill is ſubjected, yet, that it will be to no purpoſe for them to make any repreſentation to Sir Guy Carlton, which may ſerve to draw on a diſcuſſion of the preſent point of retaliation: that in the ſtage to which the matter has been ſuffered to run, all argumentation on the ſubject is entirely precluded on my part: that my reſolutions have been founded on ſo mature deliberation, that they muſt remain unalterably fixed. You may alſo inform the Gentlemen, that while my duty calls me to make this deciſive determination, humanity dictates a tear for the unfortunate offering, and inclines me to ſay that I moſt devoutly wiſh his life may be ſpared. This happy event may be attained, but it muſt be effected by the Britiſh Commander in Chief: He knows the alternative which will accompliſh it; and he knows that this alternative only can avert the dire extremity from the innocent, and that in this way alone the manes of the murdered Captain Huddy will be beſt appeaſed.

"In the mean time, while this is doing, *I muſt beg that you will be pleaſed to treat Captain* Aſgill *with every tender attention and politeneſs (conſiſtent with his preſent ſituation) which his rank, fortune and*

connections, together with his unfortunate fate, demand.

I am, &c.

G. WASHINGTON.

No. VI.

Extract of a letter to Col. ELIAS DAYTON, 2d New-Jersey, Chatham.

Head-Quarters, June 11th, 1782.

Sir,

You will inform me as early as possible, what is the present situation of Captain Asgill, the prisoner destined for retaliation, and what prospect he has of relief from his application to Sir Guy Carleton, which I have been informed he has made through his friend, Captain Ludlow. I have heard nothing yet from New-York in consequence of his application. His fate will be suspended till I can be informed of the decision of Sir Guy: but I am impatient lest this should be unreasonably delayed. The enemy ought to have learnt before this that my resolutions are not to be trifled with.

I am, &c.

G. WASHINGTON.

No. VII.

P. S. To Col. Dayton.

Sir,

I am informed that Captain Asgill is at Chatham, without guard, and under no restraint. This, if true, is certainly wrong. *I wish to have the young gentleman treated with all the tenderness possible, consistent with his present situation.* But until his fate is determined, he must be considered as a close prisoner, and be kept in the greatest security. I request therefore that he may be sent immediately to the Jersey line, where he is to be kept close prisoner in perfect security till further orders."

No. VIII.

To Col. DAYTON, 2d. New-Jersey, Chatham.

Head Quarters. 2nd June, 1782.

Sir,

I have received your two letters of the 17th and 18th instant. The only object I had in view in ordering Captain Asgill to be confined to the huts was the *perfect security* of the prisoner. This must be attended to. *But I am very willing, and indeed wish every indulgence to be granted him that is not inconsistent with that.*

When I ordered on an officer for the purpose of retaliation I mentioned my willingness that he should make any application he thought proper to the British Commander in Chief, in whose power alone it lay to avert his destiny, but I, at the same time, desired it to be announced that I should receive no application nor answer any letter on the subject, which did not inform that satisfaction was made for the death of Captain Huddy. I imagine you was not informed of this circumstance, or you would have prevented Major Gordon's application on the subject.

I am, &c.

G. WASHINGTON.

No. IX.

Postscript of a letter to Col. DAYTON, 2d New-Jersey, Morristown, dated Head-Quarters, Newburgh, Aug. 25, 1782.

"P. S. *You will leave Captain Asgill on parole at Morristown, until further orders.*"

No. X.

To his Excellency General WASHINGTON, Commander in Chief.

Col. DAYTON's Quarters, Chatham, May 17th, 1782.

On the 30th of last month I had the honor of addressing your Excellency in writing, stating the manner of my confinement and the circumstances that induced me to claim your protection. Being ignorant of the fate of my letter, it would be very satisfactory to me if your Excellency would be pleased to inform me if it has been received. In consequence of your orders Col. Dayton was desirous of removing me to camp, but being ill with a fever, I prevailed on him to let me remain at his quarters close confined, which indulgence I hope will not be disapproved of. *I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my gratitude to your Excellency for ordering Col. Dayton to favour me as much as my situation would admit of, and in justice to him, I must acknowledge the feeling and attentive manner in which those commands were executed.*

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your excellency's most obedient servant,
CHARLES ASGILL. Lt. and
Capt. 1st Reg. Foot Guards.

No. XI.

To Capt. LUDLOW, 1st Batt. British Guards, New-York.

Head-Quarters, August 5, 1782.

Sir,

Persuaded that your desire to visit Capt. Asgill at Chatham, is founded in motives of friendship and humanity only, I inclose you a passport for the gratification of it.

The inclosed letters for that gentleman, came to me from New-York, in the condition you will receive them: you will have an opportunity of presenting them with yourself. Your own letter came under cover to me *via* Ostend.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, your most obedient servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

PASSPORT.

Captain Ludlow of the British Guards has my permission (with his servant) to pass the American post at Dobbs's Ferry, and proceed to Chatham. He has liberty also to return to New-York the same way.

Given at Head-Quarters the 5th of August, 1782.

G. WASHINGTON.

No. XII.

To Capt. CHARLES ASGILL, 1st Batt. British Guards, prisoner, Chatham.

Head-Quarters, 8th. October, 1782.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your favour of the 27th of September.

The circumstances which produced in the first instance your unfortunate situation, having in some measure changed their ground, the whole matter has been laid before Congress for their directions. I am now waiting their decision.

I can assure you I shall be very happy, should circumstances enable me to announce to you your liberation from your disagreeable confinement.

I am, &c.

G. WASHINGTON.

No. XIII.

To Capt. CHARLES ASGILL.

Head-Quarters. 13th Nov. 1782.

Sir,

It affords me singular pleasure to have it in my power to transmit to you the inclosed copy of an act of Congress of the 7th instant, by which you are released from the disagreeable circumstances in which you have been so long. Supposing you would wish to go into New-York as soon as possible, I also inclose a passport for that purpose.

Your letter of the 18th of October came regularly to my hands. I beg you to believe that my not answering it sooner did not proceed from inattention to you or a want of feeling for your situation. I daily expected a determination of your case, and I thought it better to await that, than to feed you with hopes that might in the end prove fruitless. You will attribute my detention of the inclosed letters, which have been in my hands a fortnight, to the same cause.

I cannot take leave of you sir, without assuring you, that in whatever light my agency in this unpleasing affair may be viewed, I was never influenced, through the whole of it by sanguinary motives; but by what I conceived to be a sense of my duty, which loudly called upon me to take measures, however disagreeable, to prevent a repetition of those enormities which have been the subject of discussion. And that this important end is likely to be answered

without the effuſion of the blood of an innocent perſon, is not a greater relief to you than it is to ſir,

your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

AN ORDINANCE for the ESTABLISHMENT of the MINT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA; and for REGULATING the VALUE and ALLOY of COIN.

IT is hereby ordained by the United States in Congreſs Aſſembled, that a mint be eſtabliſhed for the coinage of gold, ſilver and copper money, agreeably to the reſolves of Congreſs of the 8th Auguſt laſt, under the direction of the following officers, viz.

An *aſſay maſter* whoſe duty it ſhall be to receive gold and ſilver in bullion, or foreign coin, to aſſay the ſame, and to give his certificates for the value thereof at the following rates:

For every pound troy weight of uncoined gold or foreign gold coin, eleven parts fine and one part alloy, two hundred and nine dollars, ſeven dimes and ſeven cents, money of the United States, as eſtabliſhed by the reſolves of Congreſs of the 8th of Auguſt laſt, and ſo in proportion to the fine gold contained in any coined or uncoined gold whatſoever.

For every pound troy weight of uncoined ſilver, or foreign ſilver coin, eleven parts fine and one part alloy, thirteen dollars, ſeven dimes, ſeven cents and ſeven mills, money of the United States, eſtabliſhed as aforeſaid; and ſo in proportion to the fine ſilver contained in any coined or uncoined ſilver whatſoever.

A *maſter coiner* whoſe duty it ſhall be from time to time to receive of the aſſay maſter, the bullion for coinage; to report to Congreſs devices and proofs of the propoſed pieces of coin, and to procure proper workmen to execute the buſineſs of coinage, reporting from time to time to the commiſſioners of the board of treaſury of the United States for approbation, and allowance, the occupation, number and pay of the perſons ſo employed.

A *paymaſter*, who ſhall be the treaſurer of the United States for the time being, whoſe duty it ſhall be to take charge of the coin made under the direction of the maſter coiner, and to receipt for the ſame; to receive and duly enter the certificates for uncoined gold or ſilver iſſued by the aſſay maſter, and to pay ninety five hundredths of the amount thereof in gold or ſilver and five hundredths in the copper coin of the United States.

And it is hereby further ordained, that the certificates to be given by the aſſay maſter, to perſons who ſhall lodge gold or ſilver in the mint for coinage, ſhall be on fine bank paper, and expreſſed in the manner and form following, to wit:

Mint of the United States,

I ACKNOWLEGE to have received of A. B. for coinage *(here inſert the weight)* of *(inſert the ſpecies)* bullion, for the amount of which pay to , or bearer, the ſum of , at ten days ſight, agreeably to the cuſtom of the mint.

C. D. *aſſay maſter.*

To E. F. paymaſter of the mint of the United States of America.

And it is hereby further ordained, That the officers above mentioned, ſhall ſettle their accounts monthly, agreeably to ſuch forms and vouchers as ſhall be preſcribed by the comptroller of the treaſury.

And it is hereby further ordained, That the officers ſhall enter into bonds to the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, for the faithful execution of the truſt reſpectively repoſed in them, in the manner and amount following, to wit:

The aſſay maſter, in the ſum of n thouſand dollars, and wo ſureties, each in the ſum of five thouſand dollars.

The maſter coiner in the ſum of ten thouſand dollars, and two ſureties each in the ſum of five thouſand dollars.

And that the officers mentioned in this ordinance, as well as every other perſon employed in the mint, ſhall take and ſubſcribe the oath of office, eſtabliſhed by the reſolve of the 14th March, 1786.

And it is hereby further ordained, That it ſhall be the duty of the comptroller of the treaſury to report monthly to the commiſſioners of the treaſury of the United States, a ſtatement of the mint accounts adjuſted agreeably to the uſual forms; and if on ſuch ſtatement or other information it ſhall appear, that there has been any neglect, miſmanagement or abuſe of truſt, in any of the officers mentioned in the within ordinance, it ſhall be the duty of the commiſſioners of the board of treaſury to ſuſpend ſuch officer or officers, and to report thereon ſpecially to Congreſs.

And it is hereby further ordained, That the copper coin ſtruck under the authority of the United States in Congreſs Aſſembled, ſhall be receivable in all taxes, or payments due to the United States, in the proportion of five dollars for every hundred dollars ſo ; but that no other copper coin whatſoever, ſhall be receivable in any taxes or payment whatſoever to the United States.

And whereas, The great quantities of baſe copper coin daily imported into, or manufactured within the ſeveral ſtates, is become ſo highly injurious to the intereſt and commerce of the ſame, as to require the immediate interpoſition of the powers veſted by the confederation in the United States in Congreſs Aſſembled, of regulating the value of copper for the coin ſo current as aforeſaid.

It is hereby ordained, That no foreign copper coin whatſoever, ſhall after the firſt of September, 1787, be current within the United States: And that no copper coin ſtruck under the authority of a particular ſtate, ſhall paſs at a greater valve than one fœderal dollar for two pounds and one quarter of a pound avoirdupois weight of ſuch copper coin.

DONE by the United States in Congreſs Aſſembled, this ſixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred & eighty ſix, and of our ſovereignty and independance the eleventh.

C. THOMPSON, Secretary.

OBSERVATOR No. IV.

PEOPLE differ much in opinion with reſpect to the beſt and ſureſt ſource of national wealth; ſome fix it in trade, others in agriculture,——ſome in manufactures, and ſome in mines of gold and ſilver.——In this country there appears to be a prevailing opinion among many, that commerce is that, on which the proſperity of the country chiefly depends; and would treat it as the moſt favourite object. It appears to me however, that ſuch an opinion is founded on wrong principles; conſidering eſpecially, the preſent ſituation of the country: I ſhall therefore, attempt to ſhew, in ſome brief obſervations, that the intereſt of all nations, of the United States in particular, moſt eſſentially conſiſts in their arts and induſtry; or, what I more particularly aim at, their manufactures.

To enter largely into the ſubject of trade, to ſhew its advantages and diſadvantages, the reaſons why it is profitable to ſome nations, and unprofitable to others; and alſo to treat of the conſequences of a country's poſſeſſing a ſuperfluity of circulating money would exceed my limits and be ſomewhat foreign to my purpoſe; yet, we cannot avoid obſerving, ſtill, with regard to the trade of thi country, particularly our European commerce, that it has carried off moſt of our money, together with the avails of our labour. That by this, our flocks of cattle are decreaſed, our timber diminiſhed, and yet, after all this, perhaps not more than half our importation paid for. This being the caſe, will any perſon pretend to ſay, that the trade of this country is profitable; or, that it is not ſinking its intereſt by it? Certainly not, unleſs it can be proved that a man, whoſe annual income is but five hundred pounds, is advancing his intereſt while his expenditures are one thouſand. The object of this country, in its trade, as well as that of all others, in the firſt inſtance, is, or ought to be the procuring ſuch neceſſaries for comfortable living, from abroad, as cannot be furniſhed at home; and in this caſe, a country muſt produce ſomething as an equivaleat, which will anſwer in exchange on equal terms. But this country produces nothing, or but very little, that will anſwer for a profitable remitance, nor to an equal value (as the price of our commodities now are in foreign markets) with our demands for foreign manufactures, and moſt likely never will; for all the manufacturing nations in Europe, make a point of producing all their articles of ſubſiſtence, for which reaſon, the proviſions from this country find but a ſmall and indifferent market there,—as to raw materials for manufacture, which find a market in Europe, they anſwer but a little purpoſe; for raw materials bear but a ſmall proportion in value, to manufactures; and beſides, by exporting ſuch commodities, this country loſes every profitable advantage, that can poſſibly be derived from them, and gives thoſe advantages to foreigners; and, with regard to the other commodities of this country, which are conſumed in Europe, they are generally ſold at a great loſs. Cargoes of the productions of this country, of this claſs, I have known ſold in England ſince the peace, which did not pay the freight and incidental charges. A trade therefore, carried on ſo unequally, and to ſuch diſadvantage as our trade to Europe, evidently is, muſt be eſſentially injurious to the intereſt of this country; upon which, a queſtion of great national conſideration will naturally ariſe, viz. whether it would be more to the intereſt of the public, to endeavour to fix it upon a more equal and advantageous footing; or, whether it would be more generally beneficial to attempt furniſhing by our own arts and induſtry, thoſe neceſſaries which our trade is deſigned to procure?

2d. Great complaints are made in this country for the want of money; every one is praying for more; which brings to my mind the fable of Hercules and the waggoner;——put thy ſhoulder to the wheel, ſays Hercules, and then pray for help —It is certainly idle and prepoſterous in us to complain of the ſcarcity of money, while we are, not only, *not* doing any thing to acquire and retain it, but doing all in our power to baniſh it forever from the country. The amount of all our complaints, and all our wiſhes, reſpecting money is, that we would have an inexhauſtible ſtore of money, by which all our wants may be ſupplied, yet, we would not be at a great deal of pains and care, in *acquiring* ſuch a ſtore of wealth, But ſhould our wiſhes be granted, ſhould this country be in poſſeſſion of the mines of Mexico and Pera, I cannot think it would derive any eſſential advantages from ſuch a ſource, eſpecially, as the country is in poſſeſſion of that which is more valuable and more permanent. A ſuperfluity of money in a country, if acquired on eaſy terms, naturally, and unavoidably introduces idleneſs and luxury, deſtroys the ſprings of enterpriſe and improvement, and of conſequence ſubjects a nation, thus circumſtanced, to a dependance on other nations for their neceſſaries, who put what value they pleaſe on their money; which will unavoidably diminiſh in proportion to its quantity. This obſervation is verified by what hath taken place in this country: ——as ſoon as a ſurpluſſage of money was put in circulation during the late war, luxury and idleneſs overwhelmed the country like a torrent, and agriculture together with the mechanic arts were laid aſide for the more eaſy and ſpeedy method of making fortunes by traffic and ſpeculation. To this obſervation, the paper money may be objected, but, to invalidate ſuch an objection, it may be obſerved that at the concluſion of the war, the United States were poſſeſſed of very large ſums in ſpecie, more than ſufficient to anſwer all the purpoſes of a circulating medium; and what were the conſequences? People who were poſſeſſed of money, even of ſmall ſums, laid aſide their huſbandry and mechanic arts and went into trade, purchaſing goods for ſale, not ſuch as were neceſſarily wanted in the country, but ſuch as were ſuppoſed would afford a profit to the ſpeculator; Goods, perfectly idle and ſuperfluous, tending more to corrupt the taſte of the people, than to ſupply their real wants, and ſo extenſive was this ſpirit of ſpeculation, that in conſequence of it the uſual productions of the country were greatly diminiſhed. Such are the conſequences of a ſuperfluity of money in a country; but, poverty and a mortified pride will finally be the end of it; eſpecially in ſuch countries, as accidentally at any time acquire a ſurpluſſage of money, without the means of retaining it. Had thoſe ſums of money, which were thus expended, been applied to the uſeful manufactures, the advantages would have been encreaſing, and durable as time itſelf. But now, our money, and the produce of the country are all gone, together with the merchandize they have purchaſed, and left us in a ſtate incapable of making good this waſte.

To what I have obſerved, I will add ſome exemplary evidence, which may be thought more convincing and concluſive. The dominions of Spain are are more extenſive than any other nation in Europe, and being ſituated in a diverſity of climate, are capable of producing more valuable and various commolities, than any other nation can boaſt of; yet, with all theſe natural advant-

ages, many other nations exceed that in power and wealth, and the reaſon evidently is, that the arts, and induſtry have been neglected, and mines of ſilver and gold depended on as a ſource of wealth. On the other hand, Great Britain is but ſmall with reſpect to territory, compared with many other nations. its lands were not remarkable for their fertility, neither are their natural productions ſingularly various; yet, that nation has exceeded every other in Europe, in power and wealth, and the only reaſon that can be given for this, is, that the uſeful arts and induſtry have been better encouraged and ſupported in that nation, than in any other. But it may be ſaid that trade has been the foundation of the opulence of that nation. It has certainly contributed to its opulence, but it has in the firſt place, taken care to ſupply its inhabitants with every neceſſary; and in the next place, to encreaſe its productions, as far as poſſible, beyond the bounds of neceſſity, which has been applied to ſupport a trade; by this means England has received an annual large ballance, by commerce. Without ſuch a ſurpluſſage of productions, it would have been impoſſible for that nation, or indeed, any other, to render trade profitable.

(To be concluded in our next.)

MOUNT VERNON, AN ODE,

Inſcribed to GENERAL WASHINGTON.
Written at MOUNT VERNON, *Auguſt* 1786.
By COLONEL HUMPHREYS,

BY broad Potowmack's azure tide,
Where Vernon's Mount, in ſylvan pride,
Diſplays its beauties far:
Great WASHINGTON to peaceful ſhades,
Where no unhallow'd wiſh invades,
Retir'd from fields of war.

Angels might ſee, with joy, the ſage,
Who taught the battle where to rage,
Or quench'd its ſpreading flame—
On works of peace employ that hand,
Which wav'd the blade of high command,
And hew'd the path to fame.

Let others ſing his deeds in arms,
A nation ſav'd, and conqueſt's charms:
Poſterity ſhall hear,
'Twas mine, return'd from Europe's courts,
To ſhare his thoughts, partake his ſports,
And ſooth his partial ear.

To thee, my friend, theſe lays belong:
Thy happy ſeat inſpires my ſong,
With gay, perennial, blooms;
With fruitage fair and cool retreats,
Whoſe bow'ry wilderneſs of ſweets,
The ambient air perfumes.

Here ſpring its earlieſt buds diſplays,
Here lateſt on the leafleſs ſprays,
The plumy people ſing:
The vernal ſhow'r, the ripening year,
Th' autumnal ſtore, the winter drear,
For thee new pleaſures bring.

Here lapt in philoſophic eaſe,
Within thy walks, beneath thy trees,
Amidſt thine ample farms:
No vulgar converſe heroes held,
But paſt or future ſcenes unfold,
Or dwell on nature's charms.

What wondrous era have we ſeen!
Plac'd on this iſthmus half between,
A rude and poliſh'd ſtate;
We ſaw the war tempeſtuous riſe,
In arms a world, in blood the ſkies,
In doubt an empire's fate.

The ſtorm is calm'd, ſeren'd the heaven,
And mildly o'er the climes of even,
Expands th' imperial day;
"Oh God, the ſource of light ſupreme,
"Shed on our duſky morn a gleam,
"To guide our doubtful way!

"Reſtrain, dread pow'r, our land from crimes!
"What ſeeks, tho' bleſt beyond all times,
"So querulous an age?
"What means to freedom ſuch diſguſt;
"Of change, of anarchy the luſt,
"The fickleneſs and rage?"

So ſpake his country's friend, with ſighs,
To find that country ſtill deſpiſe,
The LEGACY he gave—
And half he fear'd his toils were vain,
And much that man would court a chain,
And live through vice a ſlave.

A tranſient gloom o'ercaſt his mind:
Yet ſtill on Providence reclin'd,
The patriot fondly bel ev'd;
That Pow'r benign, too much had done,
To leave an empire's taſk begun,
Imperfectly achiev'd.

Thus buoy'd with hope, with virtue bleſt,
Of ev'ry human bliſs poſſeſt,
He meets the happier hours:
His ſkies aſſume a lovelier blue,
His proſpects brighter riſe to view,
And fairer bloom his flow'rs.

HARTFORD November 6.

The ŒCONOMICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Ladies of the City of Hartford, taking into ſerious conſideration the unhappy ſituation of their country, and being fully ſenſible that our calamities are in a great meaſure occaſioned by the luxury and extravagance of individuals; are of opinion that it is a duty they owe their country as well as their families, to retrench as far as poſſible all unneceſſary expences.—That while the Gentlemen are anxiouſly deviſing other and more extenſive plans of policy for the ſalvation of this and the United States, the ladies may unite their influence in effecting the ſame deſirable purpoſes by a ſtrict attention to domeſtic œconomy and frugality.

Thoſe ladies that uſed to excell in dreſs, it is hoped will endeavour to ſet the beſt examples by laying aſide their richeſt ſilks and ſuperfluous decorations, and as much as poſſible, diſtinguiſh themſelves by their perfect indifference to thoſe ornaments and ſuperfluities which in happier times might become them.

Hoping for the concurrence of the ladies in every part of the State and confident of the aſſiſtance and approbation of every gentleman of ſenſe and patriotiſm, they have ſubſcribed to the following articles:

1. *That from the date hereof, until the 25th of June next, they will not purchaſe any Gauze, Ribbons, Lace, Feathers, Beaver-Hats, Silks, Muſlins and Chintzes, except only for weddings and mourning.*

2. *They will dreſs their perſons in the plaineſt manner, and encourage induſtry, frugality and neatneſs, giving all due preference to the manufactures of their own country.*

3. *That when they receive viſits, and make entertainments, it will be their ſtudy to avoid unneceſſary expence, eſpecially in foreign articles.*

4. *During the above term, as they will have time to obſerve the operation of their plan they will endeavour to turn their attention to the forming of a more ſyſtematic and extenſive method of domeſtic œconomy, ſuited to the circumſtances of their country, and continue the ſame by agreement to a greater length of time.*

Hartford, November 6, 1786.

The above Aſſociation has been ſubſcribed by more than One hundred LADIES of the firſt families in this city.———We are deſired to inform thoſe Ladies who have not had opportunity to ſubſcribe, that they may ſtill have opportunity, and it is hoped, the deſign will meet their approbation.

BOSTON, Saturday, November 4.

This being the week for the ſupreme court to ſit at Cambridge, his excellency the governor thought fit to order a military force, of three regiments of Middleſex militia, and ſeveral companies of artillery, to march to that place to protect them.—— The alacrity diſcovered by both the officers and men of theſe corps, and the fullneſs of their numbers, are ſufficient proof of their attachment to the conſtitution as well as the adminiſtration of government.—His excellency, from regard to the convenience of the people, had ordered them to delay their march until Tueſday morning, excepting the Billerica artillery, who, on account of their diſtance and the nature of that branch of ſervice, were not prevented from indulging their ardour. They marched on Monday, in a ſnow ſtorm, the whole diſtance from Billerica to Cambridge. On Tueſday the militia marched in, to the amount of about 1600, under that active and able officer, Major-General *Brooks*.——Under ſuch protection the ſuprem ecourt opened, with the uſual forms, not a ſingle inſurgent appearing to oppoſe them. In the after-

noon, the troops, conſiſting of Colonels *Grant*, *Bryant* and *Lumſon's* regiments of militia,——Major *Calder's* artillery from Charleſtown, Major *Brown's* from Lexington, Major *Stickney's* from Billerica, and Capt. Kent's new raiſed company from Watertown, marched through the town in the following order: Capt. Keat's company preceded the General, who was followed by the other companies of artilley; in the evening the governor's intention of reviewing the troops the next day was announced to the General, who immediately made the neceſſary arrangements therefor. On Wedneſday morning, the General, having given proper orders, ſent an invitation to the ſupreme court, requeſting their company at the review of the troops there aſſembled for their defence.—By noon the line was formed, extending from the church in Cambridge, acroſs the common, near a mile—and compoſed, beſides the ſeveral corps already mentioned, of the following from the firſt diviſion, who were ordered by the Captain-General to march to Cambridge, in order for a review with the troops there aſſembled, viz. The ancient and honorable artillery company, under Major Bell; Lieut. Col. Bradford's independent Cadets; Major Otis's Light-Infantry, and Major Gibb's Light-Horſe; Major Spooner's company of artillery from Roxbury, and Col. Bedlam's artillery from Dorcheſter. About half paſt twelve o'clock, Gen. *Jackſon*, who we are told is appointed Adjutant-General of the ſtate, arrived at Cambridge to acquaint the General of the approach of his Excellency, who arrived about one o'clock at the univerſity, accompanied by the Hon. Council, the French and Dutch Conſuls—Major North, and ſeveral other gentlemen in the civil and military line. The Captan-General being informed by Col. Hull, who cheerfully undertook, and with great ſkill executed the office of Adjutant-General, that the troops were in readineſs, proceeded to the review, attended as follows,—

His excellency the CAPTAIN GENERAL,
Gen. *Jackſon*, Major *North*,
Hon. Council,
Hon. Judges of the Supreme Court in their robes,
Attorney-General, Clerk, Barriſters,
Inhabitants, &c.

On his Excellency's arrival on the right of the line, he received a federal ſalute from Major *Spooner's* artillery.—After which he reviewed the troops in the following order: Major *Gibb's* Horſe; on the right of which were the Major-General, his Aids, &c.

Lieut. Col. *Bradford's* Independent Cadet, and Volunteers,
Major *Otis's* Light-Infantry,
ARTILLERY.
Captain *Kent's* new-raiſed corps,
Antient and honorable,
Major *Spooner's*, Colonel *Bedlam's*
Charleſton Company under Major *Calder's*.
Major *Brown's*.
INFANTRY.
Colonel *Grant's* Regimeut (the 1ſt)
Col. *Lumſon's* (the 3d)
And Col. *Bryant's* (the 2d) which formed the left of the line.

After this review his Excellency and ſuite went to the court-houſe, and again reviewed the troops on their march into the town, from whence they immediately returned to the parade.—Here the ſeverel troops were formed into ſolid columns, when his excellency delivered them an animated and elegant addreſs, which was anſwered by three cheers from the military, and ſeveral thouſand ſpectators, whom the novelty of a field day had collected together.

The military ſkill of the ſeveral officers—the perfect good underſtanding which ſubſiſted among them, and the attention and ſoldier-like conduct of the men, were convincing proofs of their ſteady attachment to government, and proficiency in diſcipline—which muſt give every friend to his country a moſt ſenſible pleaſure.

PHILADELPHIA, November 3.

The late ſtorm of rain which fell in the beginning of October, has made great havock and deſtruction in the back ſettlements, and has greatly injured many of our farmers. The road, we hear, in many places is waſhed away, and the creeks and waters have formed new courſes and directions.

During the late flood, and in that period of general diſtreſs, which the diſtant ſettlements witneſſed, it was not a little laughable to ſee the vaſt abundance of *pumkins* that floated down the river where Suſquehanna rolls her ſullen tide. The Wyoming people have ſuffered ſorely on this account, as they muſt inevitably yield up every hope of enjoying *pies* if not *melaſſes* the approaching ſeaſon.

The honorable Thomas Collins, Eſquire is appointed Governor of the ſtate of Delaware, Vice Nicholas Eſquire, whoſe time is ezpired,

Extract of a letter from a gentleman reſident on the Ohio to his friend in Pittſburgh.

"On my return from Sanduſky, I fell in with one of the ſurveyors, who had been loſt five days in the woods. He had gone out to amuſe himſelf an hour one morning with his gun, in company with——. They took different nodes of a hill with an intention of meeting on the other ſide. But Mr. ——miſſed his companion and wandered into the woods. Hunters were ſent in queſt of him, but though they found his track, were not able to overtake him. Being a ſcholar, his wanderings were mathematical. His courſe the firſt day was nearly in a circle round the hill; the ſecond an ellipſis, his encampment night and morning, forming the two nodes. The third day he had gone off in a tangent and returning not far diſtant from the ground which he had left, formed the two ſides of an iſoſceles triangle, The fourth day he deſcribed a parabola, and the fifth was forming the extreme part of the hyperbolic curve towards the Shawaneſe towns, when I fell in with him.

"He came into our camp in the morning, having reconnoitred it the whole night preceding, apprehending it might be a camp of ſavages, of whom he had great dread. His ſhoes were worn out, his leggins torn to pieces, and his ſkin lacerated with the buſhes and muſkitoes. Through want of food (for with one pigeon or two which he had the good luck to ſhoot down) and from exceſſive fatigue, his viſage was emaciated, beard grown, and his nails like the claws of an eagle.

"He thinks he had a converſation one evening with a ſavage, whoſe ſhril cries he had heard; he had the preſence of mind to pretend an embaſſy, and made a ſpeech but the ſavage ſtill remaining on all fours, on the top of a hill, maintained a ſullen dignity, and trotted off making no reply. It is ſuppoſed it was a panther, the cries of which, at a diſtance, he might have miſtaken for the Shawaneſe language, which is of a ſofter tone than the Wyandot or Delaware."

EPITAPH on Mr. PECK.

HERE lies a Peck! which ſome men ſay
Was firſt of all a Peck of clay:
This, wrought with ſkill divine, while freſh
Became a curious Peck of fleſh:
Through various forms its Maker ran,
Then, adding breath, made Peck a man,
Full fifty years, Peck felt life's bubbles,
Till death reliev'd a Peck of troubles.
Thus fell poor Peck as all things muſt,
And here he lies—a Peck of duſt.

NEW-HAVEN, Nov. 16

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, November 2. P. M.

Accepted report respecting delegates, and ordered it to be recorded.

Concurred in negativing the memorial of Jabez Barns.

Cols. Burral and Wadsworth to confer on the memorial of John Stephens.

Cols. Burral and Wells, and Mr. Kellogg to confer on the memorial of Hebron.

Mr. Buckingham Mr. Jones and Capt. Parsons appointed to make up the debentures.

Passed bill for an additional excise.

Passed a bill for encouraging manufactures and agriculture, and exempting hemp and flax land from the list.

Passed a bill for additional duty on nails, and on imported hemp and cordage.

Authorized the comptroller to receive the furnace books and accounts.

Passed a bill, requiring naval officers to have surety for the payment of bonds.

Concurred in continuing the memorial of John Brooks Esq.

Concurred in passing a bill respecting the records of New-Haven county.

Passed a a bill appointing John Benjamin Lieut. Colonel, and Agur Judson Major of the 28th regiment.

FRIDAY, November 4.

Mr. Sherman, Capt. Higgins, Cols. Hinman, Bradley, Burral, and Mr. Hopkins, to report, on arrearages of taxes payable by the 1st of December.

Passed a bill in form, on the memorial of Susannah Hotchkiss,

On reconsideration, continued the addition to the act respecting fields and fences.

Granted memorial of Michael Baldwin.

Passed a bill for raising a troop in the 26 regiment, to be annexed to the 5th regiment of Light Dragoons.

Concurred with alterations in the bill respecting impost and excise.

Directed the pay-table to enquire into the management of Saybrook bar Lottery.

Concurred in dividing Symsbury, creating the town of Granby, and restricting each to one representative.

Continued the bill respecting fisheries,

Concurred in passing a bill, appointing commissioners to sell western Lands.

Passed a bill, postponing the six-penny tax from December to February annually.

Negatived the bill making all public securities receivable in taxes.

Concurred in continuing the bill for encouraging agriculture and manufactures.

Continued the bill for addition to the impost law and duties on hemp.

Apointed a committee to distribute the laws and nominations.

Negatived, in concurrence, the memorial of Hannah Occuish, under sentence of death for murder.

Concurred a bill in form on the memorial of Symsbury, dividing the town.

Concurred a bill on the memorial of Benjamin Maltbie, for a road from New-Haven to Middletown.

Concurred a bill appointing Ralph Pomeroy Esq. quarter-master-general.

Negatived the bill, directing the Treasurer to receive no civil list orders.

Passed a bill granting his excellency the governour 150l. for his half year's salary.

Granted the lieut. governour 50l for his half year's salary.

Granted Col. John Chester, speaker, ten dollars, which is to be added to his debenture.

Granted to the rev. Mr. Whittlesey and Dr. Edwards, five dollars each for officiating as chaplains.

Granted to Jedidiah Strong and James Davenport, Esquires, four pounds.

Allowed constable Peck's account, 2l. 16s.

Concurred in passing a bill, requesting his excellency the governor to write to congress respecting the non-compliance of this state with congressional measures.

Allowed constable Blakesley's account 5l. 14s. 6d.

Passed a resolve, continuing all undetermined petitions and memorials to May next.

Concurred with the upper house in continuing particular petitions and memorials.

The house being already reduced to about one half in number, impatient of further delay, sent a message to his excellency informing that the business and time of the house were so far advanced that an immediate general dismission would be more than welcome; whereupon, convened in council chamber, attended public prayers, admirably offered by Rev. Dr. Stiles, president of Yale college, followed by a very pertinent valedictory address of the governor to the council and house of representatives, and adjournment of the general assembly by proclamation, *sine die*.

The Gentlemen nominated by the Votes of the Freemen of this State, to stand for Election in May next, as sent in to this present General Assembly, are as follow viz.

His Excellency SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, Esq. Honorable OLIVER WOLCOTT, Esq. William Samuel Johnson, Esq. Joseph Spencer, Esq. William Williams, Esq. Andrew Adams, Esq. Benjamin Huntington, Esq. Joseph Plat Cook, Esq. Stephen Mix Mitchell, Esq. William Hillhouse, Esq. Erastus Wolcott, Esq. John Treadwell, Esq. Jonathan Sturges, Esq. James Wadsworth, Esq. Captain James Hillhouse, Colonel Jesse Root, Colonel John Chester, Mr. Charles C. Chandler, General Dyar Throop, Mr. Jedidiah Strong.

The Gentlemen nominated by the Votes of the Freemen of this State, to stand for Election in May next, Delegates in Congress of the United States of America, are as follow viz.

William Samuel Johnson, Stephen Mix Mitchell, Joseph Plat Cook, Jonathan Sturges, James Hillhouse, Pierpont Edwards, John Treadwell, Erastus Wolcott, James Wadsworth, John Chester, and Jesse Root, *Esquires*.

On Thursday last the Reverend Samuel Austin was ordained pastor of Fair Haven Church in this city.

A report is prevalent, that the executive of Virginia have received official dispatches from General Clark, commanding the troops of that state, at the westward; announcing that he had gained a signal victory over the Indians, many of whom were killed in the action and sixty prisoners taken in the pursuit. We anxiously expect a confirmation of this agreeable intelligence, with further particulars.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 10.

We learn by a private letter received on Wednesday evening from Albany' that a gentleman had just arrived from Canada, who announces the arrival there of Lord Dorchester, late Sir Guy Carlton, and his suite from England——also the hon. William Smith, chief justice of Canada.

A letter from a gentleman in Charleston to another in this city, dated the 19th ult. says, "The paper medium is well supported, and as the crop comes in will rise in credit, goods and produce have fallen much."

The hon. supreme executive council and general assembly of Pennsylvania, have unanimously re appointed his excellency Benjamin Franklin, Esq. President for the ensuing year.